

Letter to California Board of Education

May 17th 2016

State Board of Education
California Department of Education
1430 N Street, Room 1101
Sacramento, California 95814
[916-319-0881](#)

Dear Members of the Board of Education,

We write to express our support for the recommendations of the South Asia Faculty Group with regard to the curriculum framework. The Group's concerns lie with a set of changes some extremist organizations are attempting to push into California textbooks under the guise of protecting Hinduism and Hindu students. We share these concerns and want to note the depth and breadth of expertise within the South Asia Faculty Group with regard to the matters on which they are weighing in.

The South Asia Faculty Group is especially concerned regarding the use of "India" in the place of "South Asia," distorting representations of the Indus Valley Civilization and its connection to Hinduism, and the sanitization of the connection of caste to Hinduism. On these matters, we respect the integrity and work of our colleagues on the South Asia Faculty Group, and are deeply troubled at reports of orchestrated and malicious campaigns of harassment against committee members and consultants.

We hope you will take seriously the recommendations of the South Asia Faculty Group, which are aimed at producing a balanced and pedagogically effective textbook.

Sincerely,

1. Prof. S. Shankar, University of Hawai'i, Mānoa
2. Prof. Jesse Knutson, University of Hawai'i, Mānoa
3. Prof. Bruce Robbins, Columbia University
4. Prof. Vijay Seshadri, Sarah Lawrence College
5. Prof. Cristina Bacchilega, University of Hawai'i, Mānoa
6. Prof. Arvind Rajagopal, New York University
7. Prof. Charu Gupta, Delhi University, India
8. Prof. Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Columbia University
9. Prof. Keya Ganguly, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
10. Prof. Timothy Brennan, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
11. Prof. Kanishka Chowdury, St. Thomas University
12. Prof. Akshaya Saxena, University of Minnesota
13. Prof. Anushiya Ramaswamy, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville
14. Prof. Ketu Katrak, University of California, Irvine

15. Jael Silliman, Independent Scholar, Kolkata, India
16. Prof. Aparna Dharwadker, University of Wisconsin, Madison
17. Prof. Amna Akbar, Ohio State University
18. Prof. Cynthia Franklin, University of Hawai'i, Mānoa
19. Prof. Purnima Bose, Indiana University, Bloomington
20. Prof. Laura Lyons, University of Hawai'i, Mānoa
21. Prof. Barbara Foley, Rutgers University, Newark
22. Prof. Anjali Arondekar, University of California, Santa Cruz
23. Prof. Tithi Bhattacharya, Purdue University
24. Prof. Bill Mullen, Purdue University
25. Prof. Partha Chatterjee, Columbia University
26. Prof. Paula Chakravartty, New York University
27. Prof. Nidhi Srinivas, New School, New York City
28. Prof. M. V. Ramana, Princeton University
29. Prof. Mary Hancock, University of California, Santa Barbara
30. Prof. Saloni Mathur, UCLA
31. Prof. Pranav Jani, The Ohio State University
32. Prof. Yumna Siddiqi, Middlebury College
33. Prof. Ravi Arvind Palat, State University of New York at Binghamton
34. Prof. Richard Forster, University of Hawaii at Manoa
35. Prof. Carol Murry, DrPH, Retired U Hawai'i Manoa
36. Prof. Chandana Mathur, National University of Ireland, Maynooth
37. Prof. Salah D Hassan, Michigan State University
38. Prof. Richard Cullen Rath, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
39. Prof. Adam Miyashiro, Stockton University
40. Prof. Satya P Mohanty, Cornell University
41. Prof. Valerie Wayne, University of Hawai'i at Manoa
42. Prof. Junaid Rana, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
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44. Prof. Monika Mehta, Binghamton University
45. Prof. Yasmin Saikia, Arizona State University
46. Prof. Shefali Chandra, Washington University in St. Louis
47. Prof. Lamia Karim, University of Oregon
48. Dr. Gautam Premnath, Independent Scholar
49. Prof. Rachel Sturman, Bowdoin College
50. Prof. David Palumbo-Liu, Stanford
51. Prof. Rima Najjar, Al-Quds University (Retired)
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56. Prof. Bhaskar Sarkar, UC Santa Barbara
57. Prof. Ashwini Tambe, University of Maryland
58. Prof. Juan E. Campo, University of California, Santa Barbara
59. Prof. Sarada Balagopalan, Rutgers University
60. Prof. Ritu Birla, University Toronto

61. Prof. Inderpal Grewal, Yale University
62. Prof. Valerie Forman New York University
63. Prof. Lalitha Gopalan, The University of Texas at Austin
64. Prof. Madhurima Chakraborty, Columbia College, Chicago
65. Prof. Modhumita Roy, Tufts University
66. Prof. Harsh Mathur, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio
67. Prof. Martha C. Nussbaum, the University of Chicago
68. Prof. Raja Swamy, University of Tennessee
69. Prof. Mari Yoshihara, University of Hawai'i
70. Prof. Marcus Rediker, University of Pittsburgh
71. Prof. Waqas Khwaja, Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA
72. Prof. Mona Bhan, DePauw University
73. Prof. Cheryl Narumi Naruse, University of Dayton
74. Prof. Nyla Ali Khan, University of Oklahoma.
75. Prof. Tharakeshwar V.B., the English and Foreign Languages University, India
75. Prof. Tara Doyle, Emory University
76. Prof. Lisa King, University of Tennessee
77. Prof. Erika Rappaport, University of California, Santa Barbara
78. Prof. Naoko Shibusawa, Brown University
79. Prof. Sankaran Krishna, University of Hawaii at Manoa
80. Prof. Caren Kaplan, UC Davis
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83. Prof. Ned Bertz, University of Hawai'i
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96. Prof. Shelley Feldman, Cornell University
97. Katarina Figueroa
98. Prof. Alka Kurian, University of Washington, Bothell
99. Prof. Balmurli Natrajan, William Paterson University of New Jersey
100. Prof. Karen Graubart, History, University of Notre Dame
101. Prof. Suzanne Bergeron, University of Michigan Dearborn
102. Prof. Nancy A. Naples, University of Connecticut
103. Prof. Peter J. Carroll, Northwestern University
104. Prof. Sangeeta Kamat, UMASS Amherst
105. Prof. Biju Mathew, Rider University, NJ

106. Prof. Vidya Kalaramadam, William Paterson University of New Jersey
107. Yashna Panda, the Ohio State University
108. Richard Falk, Research Fellow, Orfalea Center, UCSB
109. Martha Escobar
110. Prof. Shubha Tewari, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
111. Prof. Satish Kolluri, Pace University
112. Prof. Zoe Sherinian, University of Oklahoma
113. Prof. Karen Leonard, Anthropology, UC Irvine
114. Prof. Ania Loomba University of Pennsylvania
115. Prof. Steven Salaita, American University of Beirut
116. Clarissa Rojas
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118. Prof. Monisha Bajaj, University of San Francisco
119. Prof. Paul R. Brass, University of Washington, Seattle
120. Prof. Weihsin Gui, University of California-Riverside
121. Prof. Mayfair Yang, UC Santa Barbara
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123. Prof. Juliana Spahr, Mills College
124. Prof. Darshana Mini, University of Southern California
125. Prof. Ann Christensen, University of Houston
126. Prof. Anustup Basu, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
127. Prof. Aradhana Sharma, Wesleyan University
128. Anirban Mukhopadhyay
129. Prof. Kamran Asdar Ali, UT, Austin
130. Abikal Borah, University of Texas at Austin
131. Prof. Megan Moodie, UC Santa Cruz
132. Prof. Iftikhar Dadi, Cornell University
133. Prof. Farah Godrej, University of California, Riverside
134. Prof. Jih-Fei Cheng, Scripps College
135. Prof. Gyanendra Pandey, Emory University
136. Nisha Kunte, Sage Hill School
137. Huma Dar
138. Arunima Paul, PhD, English, Gender and Visual Studies, University of Southern California
139. Prof. Danielle Widmann Abraham, James Madison University
140. Prof. Kasturi Ray, San Francisco State University
141. Mitul Baruah, Syracuse University
142. Prof. Patricia Morton, UC Riverside
143. Prof. Piya Chatterjee, Scripps College
144. Pallavi Rao, PhD Student, Indiana University, Bloomington
145. Munawwar Kavungal
146. Mara Ahmed
147. Prof. Jigna Desai, Univ. of Minnesota
150. Prof. Tariq Thachil, Yale University
151. Prof. Nayan Shah, University of Southern California
152. Prof. Nilanjana Bhattacharjya, Arizona State University

153. Shanthanu Bhardwaj